NOTE
Best copy possible

IND. RELATIONS BR. GOVT.
WASHINGTON 25
D.C.

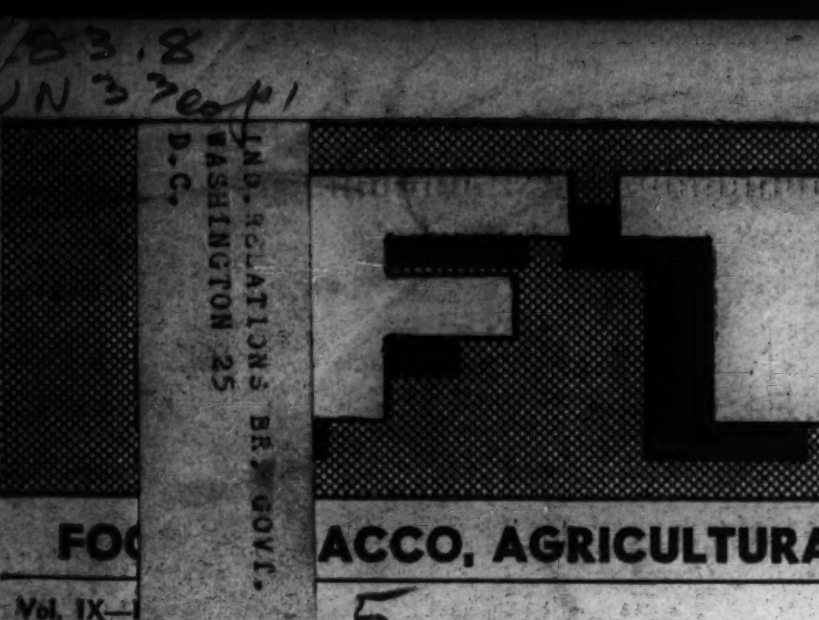
FTA NEWS

FOOD, TOBACCO, AGRICULTURAL AND ALLIED WORKERS UNION OF AMERICA

Vol. IX—No. 5 MAY, 1950 178 Price Five Cents

LIBRARY
CURRENT SERIAL RECORDS
JUL 12 1950
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Here's Part of the FTA 64 Team



Here's part of the winning crew that crushed the CIO raid on FTA conditions won over 11 years by FTA Local 64 at the Van Camp Seafood Co. in San Diego, Calif. Standing, from left: Josephine Foster, shop steward, cleaners; Mary Elofson, chief steward; Agnes Adams, president; Carmen Monette, Nelly Reichman, shop stewards, cleaners. Seated: Josephine Zarate, recording secretary and steward, packers; Katie Rodriguez, secretary-treasurer and business agent, Esparanza Montelango, shop steward, cleaners.

The grins come from victory over a CIO raid on FTA Local 64, Van Camp Seafood C., San Diego, Calif., where the workers chose to stay with the gains won under 11 years of FTA by a vote of 518 to 298. Standing are Barney Bareno, FTA Intl. Representative James L. Daugherty and Local 64 Trustee and Shop Steward Les Hoyt. Seated are Humerto Quinones and Al Bolato, warehouse shop stewards.

Local 64 Crushes CIO Raiders in 5 to 3 Vote

By a better than five to three majority, workers at the big Van Camp Seafood Co. cannery in San Diego, Calif., chose to stay with the union—FTA Local 64—that has brought them the highest wages in the industry. In doing so, they crushed a CIO raid that was led by the top command of CIO in California and Washington, D.C.

The score:

For FTA Local 64.....518
For CIO 298
Total votes cast 829
Total eligible to vote ...877

There were four votes for no union, five void ballots and four challenged.

Immediately after the results were known, FTA Local 64 Pres. Agnes Adams and Sec.-Treas. Katie Rodriguez called on all Van Camp workers to unite around FTA demands for a new and improved contract, with a wage increase.

"It must be our purpose to unite our local and put it in the strongest possible condition so that we can win our demands in negotiations on our new contract which will be taken up with the company in the next few days," the two leaders said.

"We are asking the Natl. Labor Relations Board for a union shop election so that our local won't be disrupted and thrown into turmoil again by disrupters and CIO stooges.

"Then we are going to ask the company for:

"More wages . . . better seniority . . . paid holiays . . . better overtime provisions . . . protection for packers affected by the new machines . . . better work guarantees . . . better working conditions . . . pensions, hospital and medical plans and many other improvements that will benefit Van Camp workers.

"Our union will win [illegible] if we work for it!"

The FTA victory, won despite a heavy campaign put on by CIO with the object of destroying conditions gained over many years of struggle, came as CIO was planning to attempt the same wrecking job among the 10,000 strong FTA Local 78 of fresh fruit and vegetable packingshed workers in California and Arizona.

The CIO campaign revolved around two main themes—red-baiting and the claim that "CIO held the contract." Van Camp workers weren't fooled by either line, since they had had plenty of baiting while they were struggling to build their union and they knew that FTA, and FTA alone, held the contract.

They also knew that through FTA Local 64 they had raised minimum wages from 30 cents an hour 12 years ago to a minimum of close to $1.60 today—the highest rate in the cannery industry.

The CIO disrupters, though they tried very hard to delay the election as long as possible in the hope of profiting by confusion, were forced into a showdown when Local 64 demanded that the NLRB conduct the election May 18.

The CIO gang wanted the date set for around July 3, when the FTA contract expires. The scheme was to take advantage of contract expiration and possibly [illegible] they have done [illegible] in other raids — [illegible] backdoor agreement [illegible] company that would [illegible] out FTA.

[illegible] Local 64 workers weren't [illegible] file workers, got [illegible] signed for an [illegible] pressed their de- [illegible] vote on the Labor [illegible] ard. CIO's would- [illegible] splitters were forced to [illegible] ent.

A down-to-earth rank and file drive to bring the issues to the workers did the trick. Among the many scores of leaders and rank and filers active in the winning drive were:

Agnes Adams, president; Katie Rodriguez, secretary-treasurer; Josephine Zarate, recording secretary; Mary Elofson, chief steward, and the following officers and stewards:

Charles Castillo, Victor Gonzalez, Humberto Quinones, Mrs. Ray Tibbets, Mike Dominguez, Charles Leyba, Les Hoyt, Esperanza Montelongo, Carmen Collens, Joe Camarena, Al Bolato, Josephine Foster, Carmen Monette, and many others.

Beat Teamsters By 2½ to 1

BULLETIN

Workers at the Carnation Milk Co. in Morrison, Ill., handed the AFL Teamsters union a smack in the eye when Teamo officials tried to raid them. They did it by voting 25 for FTA Local 52 to 10 for the Teamsters.

AFL Teamsters union payrollers and piecards have long dreamed of taking over FTA's contracts and members in the midwest, but they've been having pretty poor success. The defeat handed them by Local 52 will discourage others.

Beat CIO Raid by 6-2 In Local 19 Swift Plant

Rejecting race-baiting, red-baiting, appeals to prejudice and disunity by the CIO United Packinghouse Union, workers in the Pilot plant of the Swift Packing Co. voted six to two for Local 19, FTA, in an NRLB election in Memphis, Tenn.

The election involved a small group of white workers newly employed by the company in a separate unit apart from the Swift Cotton Oil plant already under contract to Local 19, where nearly all are Negro workers.

Realizing the need for joint strength and unity the Pilot plant workers joined Local 19 when the company refused to give them the same conditions won by the FTA oil mill workers. Negro shop stewards in the oil mill originally signed up these workers. When CIO Director W. A. Copeland and his assistant J. D. Harris learned of this they, along with Packinghouse Representative Boone appealed to the workers to sign CIO Packinghoouse cards and forced an NLRB election in which the workers rejected prejudice for honest trade unionism.

Present as witnesses of the election and guests of the CIO were a delegation of west German trade unionists who should have learned a lesson on what Southern workers think of as being democracy.

The Price of FEPC

Prejudice and race hatred and the leftovers of a feudal system are all behind the Dixiecrat filibuster against the fair employment practises commission bill. But not very far in the background of the FEPC fight there are also large sums of money. And the money part of it may be the most important in the long run.

FEPC is aimed to stop discrimination on jobs. It says in effect that a man's wages and the skills he may learn, should not depend on the color of his skin.

The fact is that passage of FEPC would mean more wages for Negro workers. It would also allow healing of some of the remaining breaches between white and Negroes on the job. It would therefore pave the way for organization of the large areas of the south where men and women of different colors are still played off against each other. And so in the not very long run FEPC would mean more wages for white workers too.

The government statistician is a much abused character. His findings are often a guaranteed cure for insomnia. But his charts and table can also contain, or conceal, a great deal of the truth.

Every year the Commerce Dept. publishes figures on income received by different groups. Each time [illegible]ures are released the hear[illegible]he FEPC fight is exposed, although nothing is said about it.

The last official income figures are for 1948. In that year the middle, or medium income for all families and individuals was $2,800. The median figure is used because in some technical ways it is more accurate than the ordinary average.

While the median income figure for all groups is fairly accurate, it still hides some basic facts. Break apart the figures for whites and negroes (classified as nonwhites) and you have the case for and against FEPC in your hands.

The median white family and single person received nearly $3,000 in 1948. The median for Negroes in 1948 was less than $1,500.

It might be argued that part of the income difference between Negroes and whites comes from the fact that so many Negro families are still tied to worn out land in the south as tenants and croppers. But that argument too breaks down.

In urban areas alone, 1948 median income for all white families and individuals was about $3,300. The comparable figure for Negroes was $1,800.

What the figures show is the operation of an entire system of discrimination on jobs which cuts the Negro's earning power roughly in half. On the basis of all the income figures it can be estimated that, if the job bars were smashed and Negroes could enter all ranks of industry and business freely, income for the Negro community as a whole would be increased by at least $8 billion a year.

In spite of inflation and hot and cold wars, $8 billion is still a lot of money. It would buy a mountain of pork chops. And it would tear apart the system which produces the ugliest division in the ranks of American labor.

None of this is mentioned in the polite discussion which has passed for an FEPC fight in this session of Congress. But the money interest is there, and the northern industrialist is as much in it as the Dixiecrat windbag.

The congressional fight on FEPC is now nine years old. The first FEPC bill was introduced in March 1941 by Vito Marcantonio, the labor congressman from the East Harlem district of New York. A few months later, after the threat of an enormous Negro march on Washington, Pres. Roosevelt's wartime FEPC order was issued.

The outlook for passage of FEPC in this session of Congress is bad. But a fight was started nine years ago which cannot be broken off in the middle. Until FEPC is passed as part of a whole civil rights program, Negro workers will be the victims of double profit taking and white workers will suffer in the same process.

FTA [illegible] FIGHT FOR SHED WORK[illegible]OCIAL SECURITY

By Elizabeth[illegible]

Fresh fruit ar[illegible]e packing shed workers h[illegible]just broken through another barrier in the 10 year struggle led by FTA for restoration of social security benefits taken from them in 1939.

The victory came in the Senate Finance Committee report agreeing to follow provisions of HR 6000, the House version of the Social Security Act amendments passed last year.

In another important step, the Senate Committee acted to recommend social security coverage for certain agricultural workers for the first time in legislative history. Taken together, the two victories are a very substantial achievement for FTA, which alone among all unions has consistently carried on a campaign to remove the unfair discrimination against shed workers and agricultural workers.

The Senate Finance Committee version of the social security bill (HR 6000) provides that the present exemption under which shed workers are removed from social security shall be wiped out by January 1, 1951. Every shed worker whose employer packs less than 50 percent of commodities which he has grown himself is affected.

FTA estimates that this will result in social security coverage for from 65 to 75 percent of all shed workers. According to the Senate committee's own estimates, this will include about 250,000 workers. FTA, of course, fought for 100 percent coverage of all shed workers, but the estimates show a major victory has been won—and in a year when union victories in Congress have been rare, to put it mildly.

The same estimates show that perhaps as many as 800,000 agricultural workers and 200,000 sharecroppers will be included for the first time. This in itself is a main breakthrough on the blockade that has always kept agricultural workers out of every form of protective legislation.

Final adoption of the report by the Senate Finance Committee resulted from effective FTA work on the issue. Neither CIO or any other organization had a hand in it. In fact, CIO has consistently ignored this and other discrimination against shed workers all through the years of the campaign.

Here is a blow by blow account of what happened in the last stages of the fight. April 24 the Senate Committee issued a release saying "the committee concurred in the provision of HR 6000 (the House bill) excluding general agricultural labor but is still considering the extent of coverage for borderline ('borderline' means shed workers) agricultural labor."

Privately, committee members told FTA's Washington Representative that they felt the shed workers case was lost.

FTA did not give up the fight but continued to work to swing votes of key members of the Senate committee for both shed and agricultural workers. May 5, the committee announced the favorable decision and one of the final stages of the 10 year battle was won.

Completely accurate estimates of the exact numbers and percentages of workers who will be covered cannot be made until Congress takes final action on the bill and until the U. S. social security agency issues regulations interpreting it.

Senate action on the bill is expected before Congress adjournes this summer. Since the provisions covering shed workers are the same in both House and Senate versions, prospects are good it will be law—**if FTA members continue to put pressure on their Congressmen and Senators.**

Extra effort will be needed to keep the agricultural workers covered, as the Senate committee report does, since the House version of the bill does not include them.

FTA will continue to fight just as hard for agricultural workers as it does for shed workers, not only to bring a small measure of economic justice to a cruelly exploited group of workers, but also as protection for the shed workers themselves.

Benefits covering shed workers are not secure so long as a large group of agricultural workers is excluded. Both work on agricultural commodities, and this gives employers their chance to pressure Congress to have shed workers again defined as "agricultural" and thereby excluded in turn.

FTA is not the biggest union in the U. S. A. It doesn't have money to throw into raiding other unions, nor does it have the desire. But FTA does fight for its members and for all workers in its jurisdiction—and FTA knows how to win.

DON'T SMILE!

The man who thought up the idea of having the unemployed sell apples in the Hoover depression has just died. Too bad—he may have been on the eve of another triumph in the next one, which seems to be coming along.

* * *

Incidentally, the man was a produce commission agent. The apples weren't given to the unemployed. They were sold to them. It must have helped get rid of an awful lot of apples during a difficult period for commission merchants.

* * *

The new UAW-CIO contract ties General Motors workers for five years without the right to strike. It also continues the wage cutting escalator provision by which wages go down when the Bureau of Labor Statistics says the cost of living is down. Perhaps Reuther's next step should be to abolish the cost of living index altegether, and then of course there wouldn't be any need for wages at all.

* * *

"Problem Drinker in Executive Ranks Poses New Challenge to Management," says a lengthy article in the N. Y. Journal of Commerce. When management has licked that problem, it might turn to the "problem eater in workers ranks" who has to have money in order to go on being a problem. With that one settled, management could go Reuther one better in selling the working class on the idea that unions arent' necessary.

* * *

The CIO used to boast of having six million members. Its financial statement, filed under the requirements of the Taft-Hartley law, shows the figure now is closer to three million. One million members were lost when the CIO expelled the progressive unions for daring to assert their right to formulate their own policies. If the CIO continues its raiding and disruption among other unions, it won't be long before the remaining three million melt away.

* * *

If you don't like the way monopoly business runs things, you have an easy remedy at hand, says Chairman Henry Steinkraus of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. All you have to do is start a business of your own. Are you annoyed with U.S. Steel? Irritated by duPont Chemical? Miffed at Campbell Soup? Just set up your own little steel mill, your own little cannery or what not and your problem is solved.

* * *

The U.S. Senate, where the Democrats control an absolute majority, has just (again) failed to act on FEPC. The 80th Congress, where the Republicans controlled, did the same thing, in the same way. And not a peep of criticism of the Truman Democrats out of the CIO. In fact, quite the opposite—praise for Truman and the Democrats from rightwing CIO conventions such as the Steelworkers, the Textile Workers, the Amalgamated Clothing Workers.

* * *

The N.Y. State Journal of Medicine, AMA organ now whipping up rage against national health insurance, says: "We readily admit that under the present system a certain number of cases of early tuberculosis and cancer, for example, may go undetected. Is it not better that a few such should perish than that the majority of the population should be encouraged on every occasion to run snivelling to the doctor?" Well, if you ask us, the answer is frankly NO. We'd rather snivel a bit under national health insurance if that will help people from perishing of tuberculosis and cancer.

* * *

And here is another frank quote from an equally respectable source—vice-President Hubert U. Nelson of the Natl. Association of Real Estate Boards. Said Hubert on the subject of rent control: "I do not believe in democracy. I think it stinks. I don't think anybody except direct taxpayers should be allowed to vote. I don't think women should be allowed to vote at all."

* * *

Next fall we'll turn our clocks back an hour to standard time again. These boys want to turn 'em back about 50 years, and leave 'em there.

* * *

Suggested slogan for the AMA, the NAREB, the NAM and the CIO: "TIME MARCHES . . . BACKWARD!"

FTA NEWS

Food, Tobacco, Agricultural and Allied Workers Union of America

Published monthly by the Food, Tobacco, Agricultural and Allied Workers Union of America, at 17 Murray St., New York 7, N. Y.

Editorial Office: 20th and Race Streets, Philadelphia, Pa.

John Tim ..... Acting General President and Director of Organization
Armando Valdes ..... General Secretary-Treasurer
Robert Lathan, Armando Ramirez..... Vice-Presidents
Donald Henderson....National Administrative Director
C. W. Fowler ..... Editor

Subscription: $1 a year to non-members

Entered as Second Class Matter May 8, 1949, at the Post Office at New York, N. Y., under the Act of March 3, 1879.

Vol. IX MAY, 1950 No. 5

Local 75 Wins 7½c

FTA Local 75 has just won a 7½c an hour wage increase from the Marshall Canning Co. in Houston, Tex. The raise covers men workers, and follows a similar increase won for women workers last January 23.

The increase brings the minimum to 82½ cents for men workers. The contract runs for two years, with a wage reopener clause and the right to strike for wages by July 28, 1951.

Local 75 announces it is about to go into negotiations for contract renewal and for increases with a number of employers in the rice industry in June and July.

96% for FTA Security Say Campbell Workers

There's no doubt in the minds of Cabpbell Soup workers about union security through FTA. They've just voted 96 percent for it through FTA Local 194 in Chicago.

The score in the union security election: 2,159 for security through membership in FTA Local 194, to 84 against. Eligible to vote: 3,201.

Commenting on the result, 194's publication "The Voice" says: "This overwhelming victory guarantees the security of your union and it also shows that the membership will continue to support their union."

"The Voice" points out that 200 of the eligible voters were absent the day of the election, and 100 had been recently laid off. Actually the real total of eligible voters was around 2,900, of whom 2,279 voted, with a total of 2,243 valid ballots. The "yes" vote of 2,159 therefore represents 96 percent of the workers in the plant and voting.

Observers for the union at the election were: Henry Gistover, Josephine Chlupsa, Thomas Nelson, Kenneth Washington, James Graham, Thomas Flemming, William Blount and Ernest Fox. Ushers were: Robert Richardson, Wallace Brown, Nellie Neal, Louise Johnston, Louise Hodges and Robert Glover.

Quaker Workers Map Wage Increase Drive

(Quaker Oats workers in Cedar Rapids, Ia., are rallying behind FTA Local 110 in the drive for wage increases. Despite CIO attempts to raid and disrupt, the rank and file is responding. Below are main excerpts from the FTA Local 110 wage fight program, issued May 15.)

Today, Quaker workers need an increase in wages more than ever. Past wage increases have been wiped out by high prices. The housing shortage continues to allow rents to remain high and loss of all controls is facing the workers. Speeded-up machinery is causing more unemployment, more industrial accidents and more doctor bills. This can only be solved by a substantial wage increase.

The Quaker Oats Company can well afford a wage increase out of their record high profits. The company will try to defeat the workers from obtaining that increase. The welfare of the workers is no concern of the company. Their responsibility to the community is of no concern. Profits and more profits remains as the main, primary concern of the Quaker Oats Company. The company has already begun its anti-wage fight. FTA Local 110 presents a program to guarantee a wage victory.

Each Quaker worker must understand the need for unity in this wage battle. Disunity is the thing the company is trying to create. FTA Local 110 leaders know this only too well. The manner in which unity can be obtained will be the measure of success in this important battle. To accomplish this unity a large leadership will be necessary. A wage policy committee will be established.

The wage policy committee will be recruited by posted notices in the plant. Those workers willing to serve on such a committee should contact the union office and leave their name. A wage policy committee of 50 will be recruited. FTA Local 110 hopes to receive the help of many workers who are not busy handling grievances and other union problems. This will enable FTA Local 110 to have a well organized wage victory leadership which can assure that needed work and ideas are carried out promptly and efficiently.

The above program for a united wage fight will be carried out by your Local 110 FTA Executive Board. Your FTA leaders welcome the support given this program by the membership.

FTA School Set July 9

FTA's 1950 Leadership Training School in the east is set to open July 9 at Nature Friends Camp, near Philadelphia, Pa. Locals from the eastern areas are being urged to send delegates to the one week combined training and outing.

Experienced teachers, including national officers of FTA, will be on hand to help conduct the school. Main emphasis, however, will be on rank and file participation.

Locals are asked to send delegates who have not attended previous FTA schools and to pick those who will bring the most back from the school to their fellow workers.

Fees, as described in the official call, will be $22.55 for the six days residence, plus a $6.00 registration fee to FTA.

All locals in the area covered are urged to notify FTA, Press and Education Dept., 158 N 20th St., Philadelphia 3, Pa. of the number and names of delegates to the school. Please have all information in not later than June 15.

The Social Security Hoax

The present social security pension system is a cruel hoax on our old workers. It does not provide those who become too old to work with security in their last years of life.

The fact is that in 1950 only about 39% of male workers who reach 65 years of age will receive social security pensions if they retire. The rest are not covered. Social security legislation excludes 40% of all workers. The result is that 50% more old people are dependent on relief handouts than receive social security pensions.

The pensions that are paid are miserly. The average social security pension averages about $26 a month. When the wife or the social security pensioner becomes 65 she receives an amount equal to 50% of his amount. Thus the combined pension is $39 a month.

What is needed is complete coverage for all people who work, thus extending protection to the 25 million jobs that at present at not covered. The Truman administration is pushing legislation, HR 6000, that would extend coverage to 11 million additional jobs. That would still exclude coverage on 14 million jobs.

The other basic requirement is a very substantial increase in average monthly benefits. HR 6000 proposes a step in this direction by raising the average monthly benefit by about 70%. But the proposed average monthly pension of about $44, with a $22 allowance for wife who reaches 65, would still total only $66. By contrast, the Social Security Administration estimates that an elderly couple requires a minimum budget of $125 a month.

Here's one of the picketlines that persuaded the Planters Nut and Chocolate Co. of Suffolk, Va., that it should settle with FTA Local 26 after a three day strike. Strike victory resulted in a four cent straight across the board increase plus other gains including additional vacations and paid holidays for the workers.

Win Strike at Planters

A three day strike, sparked by mass picketlines, won a substantial increase and other gains for workers at the Planters Nut and Chocolate Co., Suffolk, Va., under the leadership of FTA Local 26.

The strike was voted unanimously after the company had failed to make an acceptable offer to demands for an increase, for paid holidays and paid vacations. The union modified its demands in an effort to reach a settlement, but to no avail.

Twelve hundred Planters workers hit the bricks May 1, forming picketlines that completely covered the huge plant of the largest nut and chocolate firm in the South.

The settlement, after three days of picketing, brought a straight across the board increase of four cents, three additional days paid vacation a

The new wage scale sets minimums at rates from 80 cents an hour up to $1.52. Leaders in the strike and settlement were Leroy Harris, president of Local 26; Mrs. Robbie Mae Riddick, business agent; Alfred Bailey, Isaac Baker, Berneta Taylor, Amanda Jackson, James Hall and George Nichols.

Armando Ramirez, vice-president of FTA, and Al Green, FTA representative, assisted in the strike and in the negotiations leading to the settlement.

FTA 45 Donates Ton of Food To Unemployed

FTA Local 45, Richmond, Va. has donated over a ton of food to unemployed members, laid off at [illegible] Leaf Tobacco Co[illegible]

[illegible] than 100 food packages totalling 2700 pounds of assorted staples were distributed. Local 57, also of Richmond took part in the collection. [illegible]re made by [illegible]ners.

[illegible]t worked regu[illegible]r. The local is now [illegible]tions for a new contra[illegible]

FTA 22 Fights Discrimination In Layoffs of Negro Women

The R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Company, makers of Camel cigarettes, are discriminatorily laying off hundreds of Negro women in their latest attempts to destroy the union which in the past seven years has won more than fifty million dollars for the firm's 10,000 workers, leaders of FTA Local 22 charged this week.

Negro women who have been the backbone of the union since 1943 are being put on the streets even though they have given as much as 20 years of continuous service to the company.

Although Local 22, FTA, won a majority of the votes counted in an NLRB election held March 23, the company is making use of the fact that 134 challenged ballots are tied up in Taft-Hartley procedures to speed up its drive against Negro women.

Since May 1 layoffs and threats of layoffs have been stepped up against the Negro women as well as against other workers, both white and Negro.

In a Mother's Day speech over a local radio station, Mrs. Velma Hopkins, international organizer of FTA, and one of the original organizers of Local 22 in 1943, said: "Beginning today on this Mother's Day of 1950, we pledge to all, and we urge all to help, to let every single worker and every Negro in America know the truth of this story of discrimination against us, the Negro women, because we tried to help ourselves, our families, and our fellow workers fight for a better life.

"Because we, the Negro women, and mothers, have led the fight, we have been singled out for attack by the company in its attempt to destroy the union. During the past five years almost 2,000 of us have ben driven from the plants. The departments where we worked have been mechanized and even though we had as much as 20 years service we were put on the streets."

On March 23, Local 22 received 4,428 votes against 4,381 "NO" votes, in spite of a vicious, company-inspired preelection campaign that reached heights of intimidation never before seen in this city and involved attacks on the union by the local newspapers, the Board of Aldermen and Mayor Marshall Kurfees.

Local 22 was the first union ever to win recognition from this giant of the tobacco monopoly when led by the Negro workers who then constituted more than half of the 10,000 employed, it forced a signed contract from the company.

Since that time more than 50 million dollars in cash benefits, greatly improved working conditions, paid holidays and vacations were won by the workers.

And in spite of the fact that the union has at every step fought for real job security for all of the workers, the company has succeeded in reducing the Negro workers in its factories from a majority status to a steadily declining minority of the 10,000 workers employed in its plants in Winston-Salem.

The company has been able to carry through this discriminatory drive because it has been successful in keeping most of the thousands of white workers out of the union through an intensive campaign inside the plants of intimidation and red-baiting and by discouraging them from joining in unity with the Negro workers.

Ever since it was organized in 1943 Local 22 has held firm to the program that gains can only be won and secured through real unity of Negro and white workers in one union. It was on this program, primarily, that FTA smashed the raid of the AFL and CIO earlier this year.

BLOTTO SIGNS INC
NO HELP WANTED
NO HELP WANTED
NO HELP WANTED
NO HELP WANTED
NO HELP WANTED
374
Snap it up, boys...The only way to beat inflation is for you workers to increase your output...

U.S. Immigration Try To 'Get' Labor Leader

The story of a fighting FTA leader—Luisa Moreno Bemis—and of the U.S. Immigration Service attempt to exile her from America—is told in the article below, re[illegible] from a leaflet of the [illegible]ittee for Luisa Mo[illegible] FTA local s[illegible] for distributi[illegible] ship. Order [illegible] tee, 150 Go[illegible] Francisco 2.

Louisa Mo[illegible] resident for [illegible] ened with e[illegible] States Gover[illegible] to deport her t[illegible].

Mrs. Bemis, who is married to a U.S. born citizen, a combat veteran of World War II, and who has a daughter and a granddaughter born in this country, faces deportation because she has been a militant union leader.

The record proves this charge.

On Sept. 10, 1948, Mrs. Bemis was called before the Tenney un-American committee in San Diego. An effort was made to get her to testify against her union. She refused and challenged the committee's right to inquire into her political beliefs.

Then, early last fall, immigration agents made another try. They sent her a message. Would she meet with them to discuss assistance in preparation of the government's case against Harry Bridges? The inference was plain. Things would go easier with her if she cooperated.

Her answer was an emphatic "No." She refused to become a part of a plot to break the International Longshoremen't & Warehousemen's Union, backbone of militant labor on the West Coast.

She refused to become what she called "—a free woman with a mortgaged soul."

In short, she refused to be[illegible] a stoolpigeon.

This case is a direct result of the fact Luisa Moreno Bemis chose to devote most of her 27 years in the United States to the struggle of workers in the nation's food and tobacco industries for better wages and conditions—and to the struggles of minority peoples.

If she had spent her time seeking only her personal betterment, the U.S. Immigration Service would not be seeking to send her back to her native land, Guatemala.

She is being deported because she fought for better wages for the most oppressed of the nation's workers and because she involved herself in the struggle of all Spanish-speaking workers in the U.S. against discrimination.

She is a former international vice-president and regional director of the Food, Tobacco & Agricultural Workers Union. She is also a former vice president of the California CIO Council.

Mrs. Bemis was born in Guatemala, came to school in the U.S. as a child, left and returned in 1928. Since then she has been a legal resident of the U.S.

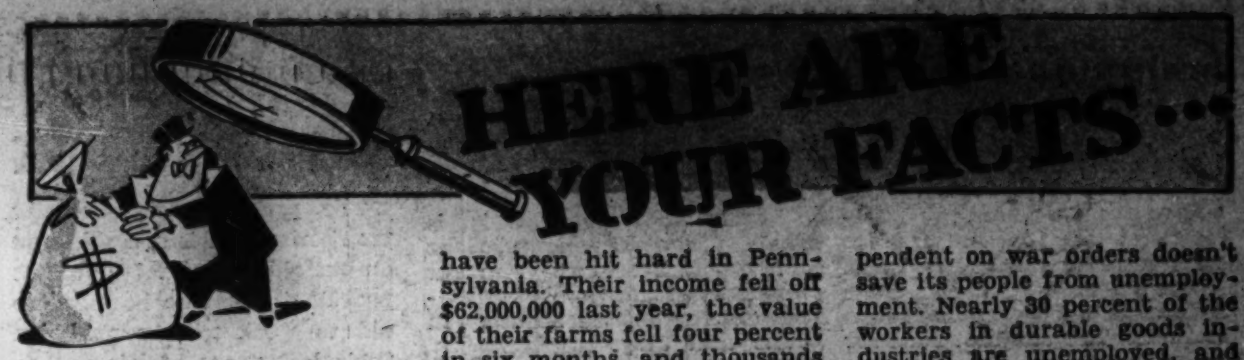
She obtained her first naturalization papers in 1937 and applied for her final papers in 1944. Currently she is facing hearings in Los Angeles. Her bail, originally set at $1,000, has been raised to $4,000.

Looking back over almost two decades of struggle, she says, "They can talk about deporting me, but they can never deport the people I've worked with and with whom things were accomplished for the benefit of hundreds of thousands of workers . . . things that can never be destroyed."

1 Write or wire your protest to the Commissioner of Immigration and Naturalization, Washington, D. C. Ask that the case be dropped.

2 Send a contribution to the Labor Committee for Luisa Moreno Bemis, 150 Golden Gate Ave., San Francisco 2.

3 Circulate copies of this folder. Get your union to go on record in this case and to send a protest.



'2nd Richest' State Tough To Unemployed

By C. W. Fowler

Early this month a group of 500 trade unionists (including a sizable FTA delegation), civic leaders, farmers and professional workers met in York, Pa., in a Progressive Conference for Jobs, Peace and Civil Rights. A panel on the job situation, chaired by FTA Natl. Administrative Director Donald Henderson, turned up some shocking facts about the situation of the unemployed in the "second most populous, second most highly industrialized, second wealthiest state in the nation"—Pennsylvania.

Here is a summary of what they found and of their proposals to do something about it. It is printed as an example of the spadework and organization needed in all states to meet the growing crisis of unemployment and the threat of depression for millions of Negro and white workers and farmers.

Pennsylvania is the second most populous, second most highly industrialized and second richest state in the nation. Its industry is basically heavy industry, and its farming occupies 14th place in output among all the states.

Like the others, Pennsylvania does not furnish adequate fig[illegible] unemployment. But conservative estimates based on official sources put the current figure at 600,000—13 percent of the working force. By government definition, this makes the entire state a "critical area."

Also like other states, Pennsylvania refuses to furnish figures on the number of Negro workers who are out of jobs, but again on the basis of U.S. government estimates and other information, it is clear that at least 20 percent of the 750,000 Negroes in the state are without work.

Then there is the youth, some 150,000 of whom will graduate this year from state high schools and colleges with little or no hope of jobs.

Farmers, especially the small, family size farm operators, have been hit hard in Pennsylvania. Their income fell off $62,000,000 last year, the value of their farms fell four percent in six months, and thousands of small dairy farms, poultry farmers, fruit raisers and truck gardeners face not only ruin but dispossession from their land.

By the end of 1950, it is estimated that Pennsylvania farmers, in common with others throughout the country, will have taken a cut in income of 27 percent since 1948.

With this situation facing Negro and white workers, youth, small farmers and professionals, what does the Keystone state, second wealthiest in the nation, propose to do about it?

The record shows that Pennsylvania, for all the wealth its working people produce, treats its unemployed with a mean and shabby hand. Among the 48 states Pennsylvania ranks:

12th in maximum unemployment compensation available to workers.

31st in amount per capita spent for relief.

But Pennsylvania employers do well. They pay the **41st lowest** unemployment compensation tax rate in the U.S.

In only one comparable industrial state, Ohio, do they pay less.

Top unemployment compensation rate is $25.00 a week for 24 weeks. The average paid is $20.68, it can go as low as $8.00.

Relief is even worse. Here the top weekly rate per person is $8.00 a week, just cut by 50 cents. Even this miserly allowance was totally denied to 41 percent of relief applicants in 1949. The latest proposal of the state authorities calls for an all-out witch-hunt against workers on relief under the guise of "cracking down on chisellers."

The great state of Pennsylvania, second wealthiest, etc. pays $6.00 less per relief case per month than the average spent by 10 comparable states.

And to get relief, the unemployed worker has to sign what amounts to a pauper's oath and agree to pay back the state if he should sell any property —even his home, if he owns it.

The fact that Pennsylvania is a heavy industry state and therefore to a great degree dependent on war orders doesn't save its people from unemployment. Nearly 30 percent of the workers in durable goods industries are unemployed, and speedup, new machines and other "labor-saving" devices are constantly adding to the number.

Monopoly holds power in Pennsylvania, as it does in other states. Monopoly is responsible for the poverty and growing misery of hundreds of thousands of Pennsylvania workers, Negro and white, for the crisis facing the small farmer, the difficulties of the small businessman and the professional.

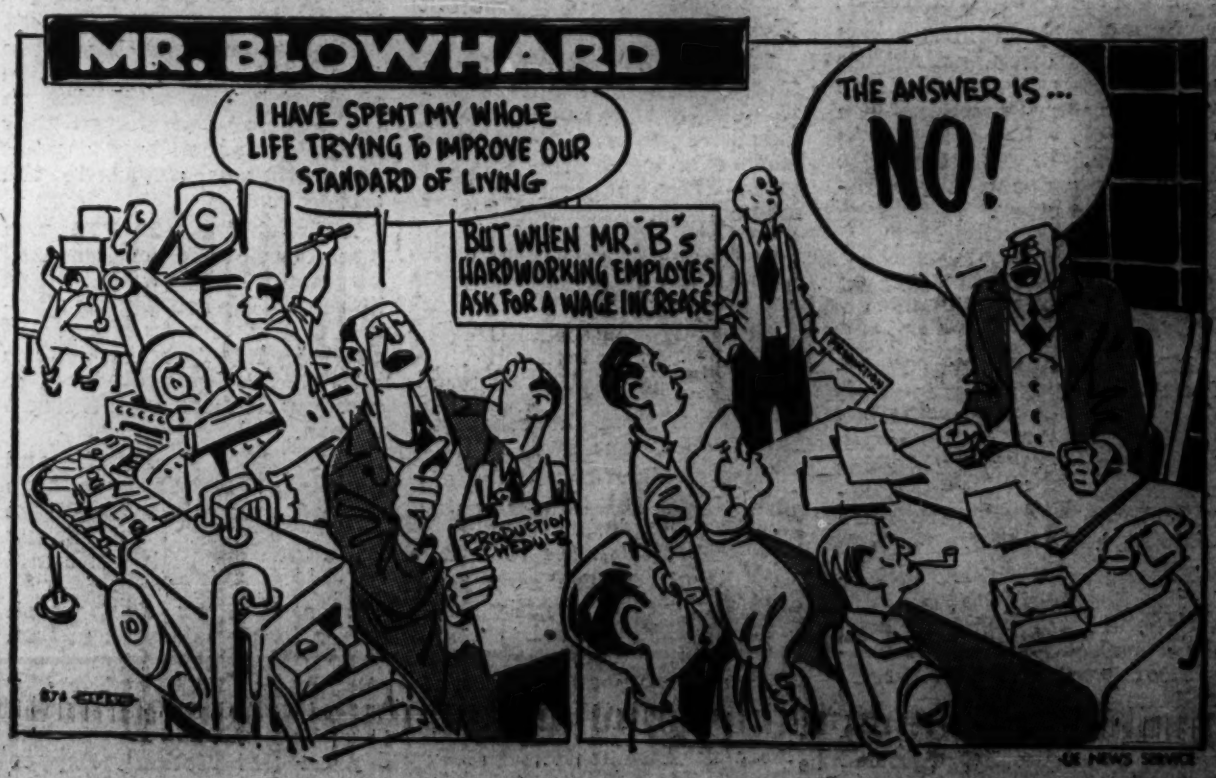
To met this crisis, and to cushion its effects on the welfare of the people, the York conference proposed an immediate action program based on a special session of the state Legislature:

1. Raise unemployment compensation to a minimum of $35 a week for 40 weeks; $7 a week for each dependent; include all workers not now covered and youth over 18; no racial, political or other discrimination.
2. A $500,000,000 state public works program.
3. A state FEPC with criminal penalties for violators.
4. State rent control, also with criminal penalties.
5. State mortgage moratorium for farmers, plus help in marketing and state pressure for enactment of the Brannan plan.
6. Raise relief standards to decent living conditions, without witch-hunts or discrimination of any kind.

This is the situation found in the second wealthiest state in the U.S. by the conference of 500 union leaders and rank and filers, including many from FTA, and this is the program of action to meet the crisis.

How is it in your state? What do union people and other progressives propose to do there? Let FTA News hear from you. Pennsylvania is not the only state with a serious crisis facing its working people, nor is it the only state with people who want to do something about it.

FTA News will be very glad to print any reports, letters or news stories on this—as on other subjects—sent in by its readers.


MR. BLOWHARD
I HAVE SPENT MY WHOLE LIFE TRYING TO IMPROVE OUR STANDARD OF LIVING
BUT WHEN MR. B'S HARDWORKING EMPLOYES ASK FOR A WAGE INCREASE
THE ANSWER IS...
NO!
PRODUCTION SCHEDULE